

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 SUVA 00407 310059Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 INR-07 IGA-02 EB-08 SS-15 PM-04
/046 W

-----310128Z 072579 /73

R 300255Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY SUVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5975

INFO AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SUVA 0407

STADIS//////////

WELLINGTON FOR AMBASSADOR

EA/ANP FOR SQUIRE; EA/EP FOR IMUS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, FJ

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE FOR ROYAL FIJI POLICE FORCE

1. DURING IMUS/GULICK VISIT TO SUVA IN LATE JANUARY/EARLY FEBRUARY EMBASSY RECEIVED SEVERAL CALLS FROM VARIOUS CONTACTS IN AND OUT OF GOVERNMENT ASKING IF AID TEAM SURVEY WOULD RESULT IN DIRECT AID TO FIJI. ONE OF THESE CALLS WAS FROM POLICE COMMISSIONER JOHN KELLAND. AFTER EMBASSY OFFICER EXPLAINED THAT AID TEAM WAS NOT PLANNING TO LOOK AT AID PROPOSALS FOR FIJI, EXCEPT IN REGIONAL CONTEXT, KELLAND NEVERTHELESS ASKED IF EMBASSY WOULD BE INTERESTED IN RECEIVING COPY OF HIS MEMORANDUM TO PERMSEC FOR HOME AFFAIRS OUTLINING POLICE REQUIREMENTS FOR AID FROM OVERSEAS SOURCES, WHICH HAD BEEN PREPARED EARLY IN 1977. ON UNDERSTANDING THAT THIS LIST WOULD BE RECEIVED PURELY FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES AND THAT NO ACTION WOULD LIKELY BE TAKEN, EMBASSY OFFICER AGREED TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LOOK AT MEMORANDUM.

2. MEMORANDUM LISTS SEVEN PROJECT AREAS WHERE POLICE REQUIREMENTS ARE LIKELY TO BE MET ONLY WITH OVERSEAS ASSISTANCE. HEADING THE LIST IS A PROPOSAL FOR ACQUISITION OF A POLICE LAUNCH TO SERVE AS A FLOATING POLICE STATION FOR THE LAU/LOMAIVITI ISLANDS LOCATED

IN THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF FIJI. THE MARINE DEPARTMENT
HAS ADVISED TH POLICE THAT IT WOULD REQUIRE A
60 FOOT VESSEL TO ADEQUATELY CARRY OUT ITS RESPINSIBILITIES.

3. IT IS OUR IMPRESSION THAT THE GOF IS NOT LIKELY
TO BE ABLE TO PROVIDE THE POLICE WITH A VESSEL
OF THIS SIZE (OR LARGER), BUT IF IT CAN BE ACQUIRED
THE POLICE WOULD BE ABLE TO MEET OPERATING COSTS
TO KEEP IT FUNCTIONAL. LOCAL SHIPYARD SERVICES
AND FACILITIES ARE ADEQUJTE TO KEEP SUCH A VESSEL AFLOAT.

4. IN VIEW OF OUR PAST ASSISTANCE TO THE GOF IN
OBTAINING SHIPS FOR THE FIJI NAVY AND THE CORDIAL
RELATIONSHIP WE HAVE MAINTAINED OVER THE YEARS WITH
THE FIJI POLICE, WE WOULD LIKE TO EXPLORE THE
POSSIBILITY OF FINDING A SUITABLE EX-COAST GUARD
OR US NAVY BOAT THAT COULD MEET THE NEEDS OF THE
POLICE. WE HAVE MADE NO COMMITMENT TO THE POLICE OR
THE GOF IN THIS MATTER, BUT IF WE CAN UNILATERALLY
MAKE SUCH AN OFFER TO THE GOF IF THERE IS AN
APPROPRIATE VESSEL AT OUR DISPOSAL, WE WOULD BE RENDERING
AN IMPORTANT SERVICE TO THE GOF AND HIGHLIGHTING OUR
INTEREST IN ITS NEEDS.

5. REQUEST YOUR COMMENTS ON THIS PROPOSAL.
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Message Attributes

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